

ON PAGE

A4

NEW YORK TIMES  
24 February, 1985

# U.S. SAID TO ALLOW SECRETS GIVEAWAY

Secretary of Commerce Says  
Agencies Let Soviet Obtain  
Many Technical Papers

By MARTIN TOLCHIN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 — Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige has charged that several Government agencies were "tolerating a massive giveaway program" that enabled the Soviet Union to acquire military and technical secrets.

Mr. Baldrige said the agencies had enabled the Russians to acquire "tens of thousands of scientific and technical studies as well as other strategic information."

The Secretary cited Defense Department analyses of space weapons, chemical warfare, nuclear weapons, computer security, high technology telecommunications, electronics, computers and lasers; Energy Department analyses in nuclear energy and physics, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration analyses of space and rocket technologies.

Mr. Baldrige, in a Jan. 16 letter to five top Administration officials, said, "The potential danger to our national security is that, through the giveaway program, the Soviets have access to studies and other strategic information covering much of the same type of technologies and products that the Administration is trying to keep out of Soviet hands through the multilateral export-control system."

## No Response From Officials

A press aide to Mr. Baldrige said no response had been received from any of the five officials: Secretary of State George P. Shultz; Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger; Energy Secretary Donald P. Hodel, who has since become the Interior Secretary; Robert C. McFarlane, the President's national security adviser, and James M. Beggs, administrator of the NASA.

"We've been told that their staffs are still working on their responses," said B. Jay Cooper, the Commerce Department's director of public affairs.

Secretary Baldrige wrote, "The giveaway program has resulted from a desire by previous Administrations to combat what they perceived to be overclassification and to develop greater public access to studies and information generated by or for the Federal Government."

Another factor, he said, was "the apparent unwillingness to date of the pertinent Government agencies to commit the funds and manpower necessary to deal with and control the rapidly increasing amounts of information generated under Government sponsorship."

## Role of Commerce Dept.

The Secretary said the source of the sensitive information was tens of thousands of unclassified and previously classified studies produced by or for the Defense Department, the Energy Department and NASA, and submitted by them to the Commerce Department's National Technical Information Service. He said the information service could not reclassify the reports and lacked the resources to screen the material for sensitivity.

Instead, the service has a Congressional mandate to make the studies available to the public, Mr. Baldrige noted.

The Secretary said the "intelligence community" questioned the dissemination of the information in 1982, but he said, "The results to date have been wholly inadequate."

In a report to Congress this month, Mr. Weinberger outlined initiatives in the Technology Transfer Control Program.

"Resources obtained in Fiscal Year '83," he said, "together with our efforts to streamline export control functions, have led to more consistent, accurate and timely case processing. In addition, D.O.D. capabilities for technical assessments and policy developments were enhanced."